United Nations A/61/858/Add.1/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 June 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 117 and 132

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Comprehensive report on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peace operations

Budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 236

For the existing text *substitute*

236. The existing Peacekeeping Best Practices Section consists of 24 posts (20 Professional and 4 GS (OL)). In the proposed restructuring of the Department, nine existing positions will be redeployed to form elements of the proposed Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, as follows: four positions (3 Professional and 1 GS) with responsibilities for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration will be redeployed to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section, and six posts (5 professional and 1 GS) will be redeployed to the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section.

2. Paragraphs 296 to 300

For the existing heading, subheading and text *substitute*

Contracts and Policy Section

Senior Contracts and Policy Officer (P-5), Contracts and Policy Officer (P-4) and Administrative Assistant (GS (OL))

296. With the large-scale growth of peacekeeping during the last 5 to 10 years, the expansion in the scale and scope of activities on the ground has given rise to a

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corresponding increase in the volume of requests for legal expertise, particularly relating to the operational aspects of peacekeeping and field operations. The establishment of operations in the last three years (e.g., UNOCI, MINUSTAH, UNMIS, UNMIT and UNIFIL) has required the provision of expert legal advice on a wide range of issues, including for the preparation of status-of-forces agreements, status-of-mission agreements, memorandums of understanding and similar agreements, while the downsizing and transitioning of other peacekeeping missions (e.g., UNMISET, UNAMSIL and ONUB) have required legal assistance, including in the preparation and revision of transitioning agreements. Ongoing legal services are further required for a large number of support issues, including letters of assist, investigations and legal disputes with contractors. Nowhere is this expansion in requirements for legal advice more evident than in the workload arising from procurement. Procurement for peacekeeping operations, which currently, in terms of the value of procured goods and services, comprises 85 per cent of the procurement activities of the Organization, grew steadily from $400 million in 1997 to over $2 billion in 2006.

297. The Office of Legal Affairs continues to be the central body responsible for the preparation of legal arrangements for and the provision of advice on legal aspects of peacekeeping, including the legislative and operational arrangements governing the staffing, supply and support of United Nations operations in the field.

298. With the proposed delegation of authority for field procurement and the related transfer of functions and resources from the Department of Management to the Department of Field Support, and given the complex and expanding requirements for legal assistance arising from procurement activities, there is a need for internal expertise to facilitate effective coordination and interaction between the Department of Field Support and the Office of Legal Affairs on what will be an increasingly greater volume of support issues requiring legal review and expert legal advice by the Office of Legal Affairs.

299. Accordingly, it is proposed that a small capacity be established in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General to provide in-house support for requesting timely and appropriate legal advice from the Office of Legal Affairs on matters related to support for the field. The functions of this in-house unit would include the identification of institutional and operational matters that raise legal issues or require legal intervention, the preparation of first drafts of procurement and other agreements, coordination within the Department of Field Support on issues with legal ramifications and the effective implementation by the Department of legal advice and policies provided by the Office of Legal Affairs.

300. The Office of the Under-Secretary-General proposes dedicated resources to meet this requirement. A Senior Contracts and Policy Officer at the P-5 level is requested to head the unit. He or she would be supported by two Contracts and Policy Officers (P-4), one of which would be provided through the redeployment of an existing position from the Office of the Director of the Logistics Division, Office of Mission Support. The work of the two Contracts and Policy Officers would be split along functional lines: one would largely be responsible for providing policy advice and assistance on matters involving administrative, managerial and institutional support, while the other would provide contracts support in respect of procurement matters, including for fuel, logistics and supplies. It is further proposed

that one General Service (Other level) post be established to provide administrative and clerical support to the unit.

3. Paragraph 538

For the existing table entitled "Peacekeeping total contract value" *substitute*

(Millions of United States dollars)

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[a]
Peacekeeping-related contract value	693	639	728	1 116	1 438	1 783	2 000

[a] The amount for 2007 is an estimate.